(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the activities of Government institutions in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) the budget allocation of Rs. 165.35 crores (Rs. 141.54 crores-Plan Rs. 23.81 crores-Non-Plan) has been made during 1997-98 for the schemes/programmes being handled by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the welfare and development of the disabled persons including mentally handicapped people. It is proposed to reach out to larger number of disabled including mentally retarded through the schemes/programmes.

(c) to (e) Steps have been taken by the Government to increase the services for the mentally retarded, rendered in the areas of early intervention, special education in special schools, home based training programmes, vocational training and employment and community based rehabilitation services. The government propose to introduce a Bill to set-up a Trust to *inter-alia* manage the movable properties bequeathed by families of persons with autism, mental retardation, cerebral palsy and the multiple disabilities. The Trust when set up will assist through providing respite care and family care, day care services besides residential hospitals and the residential homes.

कोरबा स्थित बाल्को को हुआ घाटा

*576. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कोरबा स्थित बाल्को का एल्युमिनियम संयंत्र लगातार घाटे में चल रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान उक्त संयंत्र को कुल कितना घाटा हुआ;

(घ) इन घाटों के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) क्या इस संयंत्र के प्रबंधकों के द्वारा किए जा रहे भ्रष्टाचार और कदाचार के कारण उक्त संयंत्र को लगातार घाटा हो रहा है?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री नवीन पटनायक): (क) जी, नहीं। बालको के कोरबा स्थित एल्युमिनियम संयंत्र को 1987-88 से कोई हानि नहीं हुई है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) बालको को आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान कोई हानि नहीं हुई है।

(घ) और (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Management Disaster in Sail

*577. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports published in some newspapers stating that SAIL has been a management disaster;

(b) if so, whether Government have drawn any action plan to revitalise the ailing company; and

(c) whether Government have considered the possibility to bring about change in top leadership with a view to arresting the downslide and restore the earlier level of confidence in the workforce?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir, The Government's attention has been drawn to a report captioned "SAIL is a management disaster" which appeared, last year, in a section of the Press.

(b) and (c) the Department of Steel periodically reviews the performance of Public Sector undertakings (PSUs) under its administrative control including the special & current areas of concern etc.

The main reasons identified for the downslide in SAIL's performance include slow down in demand for steel, greater competition from imports, and enhancement in supplies in domestic market. Further the profits were adversely affected by increase in input prices primarily of coking coal, petroleum products, power, transportation and higher interest cost which could not be fully neutralised by better techno-economic parameters, cost reduction measures and increase in the prices of steel, etc.